

August 2020



## UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra

*Serving Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado and Tuolumne counties.*

### Your monthly news & event announcements

***As the State of California remains in the shelter-in-place order to slow the spread of COVID-19, UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra is still working remotely. We are here to answer your questions and address needs during this unprecedented situation.***

Join our mailing list.

Greetings,

It's August and we're almost 5 months into the COVID-19 pandemic. There is so much that has changed, yet so much has stayed the same. Our commitment to our clientele remains strong and we continue to find ways to address your needs. While we are doing most of our outreach in a virtual format, we continue to conduct research that benefits our community. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our team should you have questions.

Please take care and stay healthy. We hope you have a 'cool' August.

Sincerely,

JoLynn Miller  
Director and 4-H Youth Development Advisor  
University of California Cooperative Extension Central Sierra

Visit our Website

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CE UC Cooperative Extension  
Central Sierra on Facebook



## UCANR - Coronavirus and COVID-19

In cooperation with COVID-19 precautions from the State of California, our UCCE offices will be closed to the public until further notice. While we regret the inconvenience, our in-person events will be limited for the near future. Please see our [calendar](#) or call us to learn more about virtual and in-person opportunities to connect with us.

You can contact us by our main phone number at (530) 621-5502, or by email at [cecentralsierra@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cecentralsierra@ucdavis.edu)

## UC ANR Things of Interest

### **USDA Investigates Packages of Unsolicited Seeds from China... Don't open those packages!!! Take them to your local Agriculture Department!**

USDA is aware that people across the country have received suspicious, unsolicited packages of seed that appear to be coming from China. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, other federal agencies, and State departments of agriculture to investigate the situation.

USDA urges anyone who receives an unsolicited package of seeds to immediately contact their State plant regulatory official or APHIS State plant health director. Please hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until someone from your State department of agriculture or APHIS contacts you with further instructions. Do not plant seeds from unknown origins.

[Continue reading USDA Investigates Packages of Unsolicited Seeds from China...](#)

### **New mobile app identifies hazardous trees for public safety**

Author: Pamela Kan-Rice

"Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky," wrote Kahlil Gibran. But trees falling into power lines have sparked catastrophic fires and falling trees have injured nature lovers.

To prevent power outages, PG&E looks for trees near power lines that need to be trimmed or removed. To prevent power outages and other mishaps caused by falling trees, Matteo Garbelotto, UC Cooperative Extension forest pathology specialist at UC Berkeley, has incorporated science into a mobile application that can be



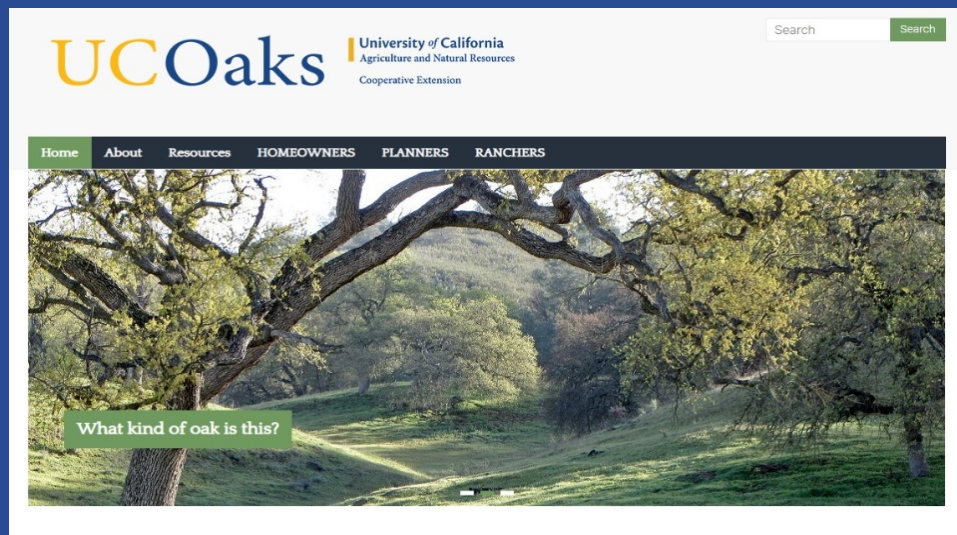
used to determine whether a tree presents a hazard and should be removed.

“PG&E was doing tree surveys with pencil and paper,” said Garbelotto, who saw the manual process as fraught with opportunities for error. A paper record needs to be sent to a central collection site where it is transcribed. In the transcription process, mistakes can be made. And there's no way of verifying if a person actually examined the tree to fill out the form.

[Continue reading New mobile app identifies hazardous trees for public safety...](#)

## Curious about oaks? Find answers on new UC Oaks website

Author: Pamela Kan-Rice



Oak trees are iconic in California's landscape. Just about anything you would like to know about caring for the state's 8 million acres of oak woodlands is now accessible to the public online. University of California Cooperative Extension scientists have updated the UC Oaks website at <https://oaks.cnr.berkeley.edu> with oak ecology, management and oak woodland conservation information based on over 30 years of research.

“On the home page, we have highlighted oak topics – such as oak planting, oak ecology and rangeland management – that have been of special interest to website users,” said Bill Tietje, UC Cooperative Extension natural resources specialist at UC Berkeley, based in San Luis Obispo.

About 80% of the oak woodlands in California are privately owned, with the majority used for grazing, primarily by beef cattle.

[Continue reading the Curious about oaks? blog entry...](#)

## UCCE Central Sierra Agriculture

### **Carbon Farm Plan Assistance Available**

Amador Resource Conservation District

Interested in developing a Carbon Farm Plan? The Amador Resource Conservation District has been awarded funding from Patagonia to assist landowners in developing Carbon Farm Plans for their properties. The plan will inform management decisions that increase overall carbon capture on your landscape, while building resiliency, maximizing ecosystem services, and boosting production. The plans will cover all relevant carbon farming practices, including:

[Continue reading the Carbon Farm Plan Assistance Available document...](#)

## UCCE Central Sierra Forestry

### **Change of Dates**

[Register now for a California Forest Stewardship Workshop](#)

**Online Weekly Workshops - August 24 - October 21, 2020, 6:00 - 7:00 pm**

**In Person Workshop - Saturday, September 12, 2020**

**UC Berkeley Forestry Camp, Meadow Valley, Plumas County**



This workshop series will help landowners develop plans to improve and protect their forest lands in an ecologically and economically sustainable manner. The workshops will address management objectives and planning, forest restoration, fuels reduction, project development, permitting, and cost-share opportunities. Participants will connect with other landowners and learn how to collect information to develop their own management plans.

#### **Workshop Format:**

Online and in-person workshop: Participants will review forestry, forest management and ecological materials posted online at their own pace; complete short activities related to the drafting of a forest management plan; participate in weekly Zoom meetings; and attend one field day. Registered participants will be sent a syllabus with material and date specifics. Participants who complete the course will be eligible for a free visit by a Registered Professional Forester to assess its content.

Registration for the workshop is \$60. [Sign up now!](#)

For questions, contact Kim Ingram, [kcingram@ucanr.edu](mailto:kcingram@ucanr.edu).

For more details see the [Forest Stewardship Workshops webpage](#).

# UCCE Central Sierra Livestock & Rangelands

## Forage Production Study

In 1995 Cooperative Extension initiated a study to monitor forage production at set locations across the foothill area within El Dorado, Amador and Calaveras counties. Permanent locations were established near Latrobe, El Dorado, Sutter Creek, Lone, Copperopolis, Paloma and Mountain Ranch. This continuing long term study has demonstrated the wide variation in forage production among years, with fluctuations as large as 600% at some locations. These results reconfirm that temperature and rainfall distribution are the key drivers in determining the total annual forage production. Information from this study is also being utilized to determine the extent to which the forage produced in one year breaks down over the summer in the absence of livestock grazing, a missing piece of information critical to the management of residual dry matter and for protection of foothill rangeland soils.

Download and read the [2019/20 Sierra Nevada Foothill Annual Forage Production Summary Report](#)

Go to the [California Rangeland website](#) for more information.

## High School Students: Register Now For Virtual Range Camp

The California Range & Natural Resources Camp is usually a week-long summer camp for high school students, 14-18 years old. It has been running for over 30 years. During camp, students learn about management of plants, livestock, wildlife, and landscapes from university and cooperative extension faculty, land management agency staff, and other professionals. This year, because of COVID-19, we are not able to have our regular in-person camp. Instead we are having Virtual Camp! Subject matter specialists have put together more than 20 new videos just for us, ranging in time from 2-15 minutes. Video topics include rangeland ecology and management, botany, ranch economics, wildlife, grazing animal nutrition, ornithology, fire, and a great series of interviews with people about their careers in in this exciting field, and with students about their college experiences. Some of the videos even give you science-based activities you can do from your home or a local park.



The Virtual California Range Camp is free, but students must register in order to get an email with the link to the videos. Range Camp T-shirts will be given to the first 20 students who register (must be high school students!).

Register here : <http://ucanr.edu/rangecamp2020>

Watch the videos and then join us on August 31 at 3:00 pm for a one-hour live Zoom webinar to discuss your questions and ideas with experts in the field of range management and natural resources!

## Building and Maintaining Fences in the High Country

Author John Miles

When I used to “work” I was a professor of Agricultural Engineering at the University of California, Davis. As a part of that job I was co-director of the Agricultural Ergonomics Research Center where we developed new tools to reduce the hazards related to agricultural jobs. My other long term “job” which continues today is management of a cattle ranch near Lone. As part of this operation, we have a U.S. Forest Service grazing permit on the El Dorado National Forest and the allotment is between 4000 to 5000 ft. elevation. There are miles of fence which need to be maintained or reconstructed each year. To assist in this operation, we have developed several tools which may be useful to others. These are generally simple tools which could be made in most home shops. A summary and discussion of these tools follows:



[Continue reading Building and Maintaining Fences in the High Country...](#)

## UCCE Central Sierra Living with Fire

### Be Prepared for Fire Season!

Are you prepared for fire season? There are many things that you can do to help make your home and property more fire resistant. We all face these challenges every summer as the vegetation becomes dryer and dryer. Don't let down your guard. Visit the [UCCE Living with Fire webpage](#) for information and resources.

Publications that can aid you on your endeavor of becoming more fire resistant:

[Landscaping Tips to Help Defend Your Home from Wildfire](#), UC ANR Publication 8322

[Fire Resistant Landscaping](#) - CalFire's firesafe landscaping information.

[The Combustibility of Landscape Mulches](#), UNCE Publication

## UCCE Central Sierra Master Food Preservers

As we create a plan to return to work we are still working remotely to answer your questions and address needs during this unprecedented situation. Check out our [website](#), or our "[Ask a Master Food Preserver](#)" link or call 530-621-5506 to leave a message and someone will return your call.

Thank you for your understanding.



## Upcoming Online Food Preservation Class August 1st at 10:30am - Need to Register

If your garden produces more than you can eat within a couple of days, you'll need to preserve the food, so it doesn't go to waste. During this hour and a half presentation (with a break in the middle), UC Master Food Preservers will explain and demonstrate the basics of safely harvesting, freezing, dehydrating and canning your produce. Watch a live canning demonstration and receive a handout packet with information, recipes, video links and additional resources to help you confidently preserve your harvest.

Join the Master Gardeners in Tuolumne County as they team up with the Master Food Preservers of Amador/Calaveras County to host a live online food preservation class. You must register to get the link to join the class. Any residents of Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado and Tuolumne counties may attend this class:

8-1: [Preserving Your Harvest](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County and presented by the UCCE Master Food Preservers of Amador/Calaveras County.

### Follow Us Online

#### UCCE Master Food Preservers of Central Sierra

##### Amador/Calaveras

- Phone: 209-223-6482
- Email: [acmfp@ucanr.edu](mailto:acmfp@ucanr.edu)
- Online: [Ask a Master Food Preserver](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

##### El Dorado County

- Phone: 530-621-5506
- Email: [edmfp@ucanr.edu](mailto:edmfp@ucanr.edu)
- Online: [Ask a Master Food Preserver](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

#### UCCE Central Sierra Master Gardeners

While we work on plans for resuming meetings or small classes, our UCCE Master Gardeners are still available to answer your questions! When leaving phone messages, be sure to include your contact information so they can get back to you with answers. You can also explore our online resources, including [monthly gardening tips](#), original articles written by UCCE Master Gardeners in [Amador](#), [Calaveras](#), [El Dorado](#), and [Tuolumne](#) Counties, and [South Lake Tahoe](#), and [Over the Garden Gate](#), a radio show presented by the UCCE Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County's, by visiting our [UCCE Master Gardeners of Central Sierra website](#) anytime!



### Online Class Recordings

Amador County's [Handouts and Presentations webpage](#).

El Dorado County's [Presentations and Handouts webpage](#).

Tuolumne County's [Presentations and Class Recordings webpage](#).

## Upcoming Online Gardening Classes

Master Gardener Programs across our 4 county area have been hosting live online gardening classes. You must register to get the link to join the classes in most cases and any residents of Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado and Tuolumne counties may attend these classes:

- 8-1: [Preserving Your Harvest](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County  
8-15: [Cool Weather Crops](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County  
8-22: [Fall & Winter Vegetables - Part 1](#), hosted by UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

## Farmers Markets

### Calaveras County

Master Gardeners are hosting a [CalaverasGrown Certified Farmers Market](#) at the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden located at 891 Mountain Ranch Road in San Andreas on the third Thursday of every month from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm through October.

### El Dorado County

Master Gardeners will be at the [El Dorado Hills Farmers Market](#) in Town Center on the first and third Sunday of each month through October 25th.

### Tuolumne County

Master Gardeners are at the [Sonora Certified Farmers Market](#) every Saturday Morning, through October from 6:30 to 11:30 am.

Have a gardening questions or need a pest identified...? Stop by and see us.

## Follow us on social media!

### Master Gardeners of Amador County

- Phone: 209-223-6838
- Email: [mgamador@ucanr.edu](mailto:mgamador@ucanr.edu)
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

### Master Gardeners of Calaveras County

- Phone: 209-754-2880
- Email: [calaverasmg@ucanr.edu](mailto:calaverasmg@ucanr.edu)
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

### Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

- Phone: 530-621-5512
- Email: [mgeldorado@ucanr.edu](mailto:mgeldorado@ucanr.edu)
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on [Instagram](#)





### Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe

- Phone: 530-314-8383
- Email: [laketahoemg@ucanr.edu](mailto:laketahoemg@ucanr.edu)
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)
- Follow us on [Instagram](#)

### Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County

- Phone: 209-533-5912
- Online: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)
- Look for us on [Facebook](#)

Join us on Facebook for our Victory Gardens 2020 community! Click the link and click JOIN. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2869134093201149/>  
Open to ANY resident of Calaveras, Amador, El Dorado or Tuolumne Counties.

## UCCE Central Sierra 4-H Youth Development

### 4-H Youth Development Program 2019 Annual Report



### 4-H YDP Annual Report

Highlighting just a few of our success stories in 2019, all possible because of the dedication and enthusiasm of youth members, selfless volunteers and community partners, and the extreme commitment of all the 4-H professionals working across the state.

## El Dorado County Jr. Livestock Auction

A very big thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Group. Every year, The Group's mission is to help "bump up" overall prices for exhibitors or to improve prices when there is a lull in bidding. With all your contributions this year, we were able to bump all exhibitors up to the prices below.

Steers: \$4,830  
Hogs: \$1,140  
Lambs: \$930  
Goats: \$930  
Rabbits: \$430



Thank you again to all who contributed! More post-auction information to come, so stay tuned.

## Join us on social media & follow 4-H from home!

Visit your county's Facebook page for updates and activities to help keep us all connected:

[Amador 4-H](#)  
[Calaveras 4-H](#)  
[El Dorado 4-H](#)  
[South LakeTahoe 4-H](#)  
[Tuolumne 4-H](#)  
[California 4-H](#)  
[California 4-H at Home webpage](#)



[Amador 4-H](#), [Calaveras 4-H](#), [El Dorado 4-H](#), and [Tuolumne 4-H](#) are also officially on instagram! Follow [@tuolumne4h](#) to keep up to date on what's happening in their county! Or [@California4H](#) to see whats happening around the state. We will be posting fun activities and resources - be sure to check it out!

## UCCE Central Sierra Community Health & Nutrition

Visit our [UCCE Central Sierra COVID-19 Community Resources page](#) for the latest information about food resources and topics in your area.

### Nutrition News for the Central Sierra

Welcome to our monthly newsletter about food, nutrition, and healthy living in the Central Sierra.

To read the [most recent newsletter](#), or peruse past issues, visit our [website](#), or click below to subscribe.



[Click here to join the Nutrition Newsletter Mailing List.](#)

## Harvest of the Month



August brings many types of ripening produce to the Central Sierra, but some of the most striking summer colors and flavors come from peppers. Peppers come in sweet varieties, which include but aren't limited to bell peppers, and spicy varieties, which are also known as chiles. Few foods offer as much variety in color, shape, and flavor as peppers do, so look out for less common types in local markets or when choosing plants for your garden. All peppers start out green, and will ultimately become sweeter and change color as they ripen. Green bell peppers or green chiles are less sweet because they are less ripe; red, orange, or yellow colors indicate that a pepper has ripened and will be sweeter. Chiles become spicier as they ripen, although spice level also varies widely between chile varieties, growing conditions, and even from plant to plant in the same garden. Any type of pepper should be firm and glossy when fresh, although many chiles are also preserved and sold dried. Peppers contain fiber and Vitamin A, and are excellent sources of Vitamin C. A single serving of peppers usually provides all the Vitamin C recommended for an entire day. See below for pepper recipe ideas to try this August, or learn more about peppers and view their nutrition facts at the USDA's [Seasonal Produce Guide](#).

Recipe Ideas:

- [Roasted Chilies and Bell Peppers](#)
- [Moroccan-Style Stuffed Peppers](#)
- [Mango Chile Relleno al Carbon](#)
- [Bell Pepper and Vidalia Onion Strata](#)

## UCCE Integrated Pest Management and more...

### Controlling Ants the Healthy Way

Author: Jeannette E. Warnert



Spotting ants in the home or yard is no reason to reach for insecticide sprays or call an exterminator. UC Cooperative Extension experts say the insects can be managed by residents in ways that are effective, inexpensive, safe and environmentally kind.

“Ants are probably the No. 1 most common pests of our homes and gardens,” said Carolyn Kinnon, an environmental horticulturist and instructional associate at Mira Costa Community College. “Scientists find chemicals in our waterways that include pesticides commonly used to kill ants.”

Kinnon teamed up with UCCE community education specialist Scott Parker to present a [Healthy Garden-](#)

[Healthy Home](#) online ant workshop during the COVID-19 pandemic to take the place of a planned in-person event. Healthy Garden-Healthy Home was initiated in 2005 with a grant from the California State Water Resources Control Board and continues with funding from San Diego County. With the move online, the workshop attracted four times more participants than usual.

“A silver lining of the COVID disaster has been our ability to reach out to many more individuals,” Parker said.

Healthy Gardens-Healthy Homes aims to cut residents' use of chemicals and reduce soil erosion that can wash into gutters with irrigation or rain water, course through storm drains and into streams, reservoirs and the Pacific Ocean. During the recent UCCE webinar on healthy ant control, Kinnon introduced science-based solutions that can be combined to keep ants at bay.

[Continue reading the Controlling Ants in the Healthy Way blog entry...](#)

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Updated [UC IPM](#) PestNotes

[Brooms: Pest Notes for Home and Landscape](#), Publication Number: 74147

[Mosquitoes: Pest Notes for Home and Landscape](#), Publication Number: 7451

[Green Bulletin, Spring 2020 Issue](#) - Information for pest management professionals and pesticide applicators.

[Plant problem diagnostic tool](#)

[Natural Enemies Gallery](#)



[Weed Identification and Photo Gallery](#)

[Seasonal IPM](#)

[Recent Updates at IPM](#)

[UCIPM Weather Models & Degree Days webpage](#)

Thank you for your continued interest in the UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra's news, workshops, and events.

Sincerely,

JoLynn Miller  
Director and 4-H Youth Development Advisor  
University of California Cooperative Extension Central Sierra

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